



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Milwaukee County
SCOTT WALKER • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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WALKER ANNOUNCES MAJOR GRANT FOR WORKFORCE TRAINING

Milwaukee – County Executive Walker announced Thursday that the Regional Workforce Alliance’s (RWA) effort to advance regionally integrated workforce solutions received a boost yesterday. Thanks to a U.S. Department of Labor award, Southeastern Wisconsin can receive up to \$5 million for “Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development” as a WIRED region.

RWA – a collaboration lead by the Private Industry Council of Milwaukee County, the Waukesha-Ozaukee-Washington Workforce Development Board, and the Southeast Wisconsin Workforce Development Board – invests in strategies to build the skilled workforce that Milwaukee area businesses need to compete in today’s global world. U.S. Department of Labor Assistant Secretary Emily Stover-DeRocco gave tribute to RWA’s efforts during her recent visit of the area as she stressed the critical importance of talent in successful regional economic development.

“Talent development is economic development,” said Walker. “Improving the skills of Southeastern Wisconsin workers is key to keeping, growing, and attracting business and industry in the region. RWA has the capacity to align workforce resources to address our region’s economic development needs.”

John Hiller, Chair of the Private Industry Council of Milwaukee County, also lauded the WIRED designation and award, “Through RWA, Southeastern Wisconsin is now positioned to design a regional workforce development system for the 21st century.”

Now that Southeastern Wisconsin has received the WIRED designation, RWA can pursue innovative approaches to regional talent and skill development. As the talent arm of the Milwaukee 7, RWA will connect with businesses and align resources to create a continuum of demand driven, skill development opportunities that serve a spectrum of workers. Special attention will be directed towards developing workforce competencies in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) occupations. Activities are expected to incorporate innovation and applied technologies in learning environments.

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